

Message Text

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NEA/INS:DKUX

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, RU

SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES REQUEST FOR BRIEFING ON SOVIET
ARMS TO INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 8287; LONDON 8278

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY NEW DELHI'S SUGGESTION
THAT NEW YORK TIMES BE GIVEN BRIEFING REQUESTED ON SOVIET
ARMS DELIVERIES TO INDIA. WE WOULD PREFER THAT WHATEVER
STORY RESULTS FROM THIS BRIEFING BE DATED LONDON. WE
THEREFORE SEEK EMBASSY LONDON'S VIEWS WHETHER IT POSSIBLE
PASS TO NYT OFFICE LONDON, ON NON-ATTRIBUTION BASIS, THE
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UNCLASSIFIED DATA CONTAINED STATE 85206. IN DOING SO,

LONDON WOULD NOTE THAT THIS MATERIAL BEING PROVIDED IN RESPONSE REQUEST RECEIVED FROM WEINRAUB IN DELHI. FYI: DEPARTMENT GAVE SAME DATA TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HERE. THESE FACTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SOURCE AS APPENDIX I TO REPORT OF (HAMILTON) SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES END FYI.

2. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PROPOSE LONDON GIVE TO TIMES OFFICE, AGAIN ON NOT-FOR-ATTRIBUTION BASIS, FOLLOWING LIST OF TYPES OF ITEMS SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS TO INDIA DURING PAST THREE YEARS:

ARMY

T-55 MEDIUM TANKS
TRUCK-MOUNTED MINE-CLEARING TANKS
TANK TRANSPORTERS
TRUCK-MOUNTED BRIDGES
TRUCKS OF VARIOUS CONFIGURATION INCLUDING SHOP VANS
RADAR UNITS
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS

NAVY

PETYA CLASS DESTROYER ESCORTS (FRIGATES)
F CLASS SUBMARINES
OSA CLASS LARGE GUIDED-MISSILE BOATS
SUBMARINE RESCUE SHIP

AIR FORCE

MIG-21 FIGHTERS
SU-7 FIGHTER GROUND-SUPPORT FIGHTERS
MI-8 HIP HELICOPTERS
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IN ADDITION THE SOVIETS HAVE ASSISTED INDIA IN PRODUCTION (MANUFACTURING OR ASSEMBLING) THE FOLLOWING SOVIET WEAPONRY:

MIG-21'S
SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES
AMMUNITION AND SPARES FOR SOVIET-SUPPLIED

EQUIPMENT

FYI. THIS INFORMATION ON TYPES OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO INDIA CAN BE FOUND IN THE PRESS, MILITARY JOURNALS AND OTHER OPEN SOURCES, BUT IS REASONABLY COMPLETE AND ACCURATE. MORE DETAILED DATA ON SPECIFIC DESIGNATIONS AND NUMBERS OF ITEMS SUPPLIED IS AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT ONLY ON A CLASSIFIED BASIS, AND WE CANNOT DECLASSIFY BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY. WE WILL, HOWEVER, REFER NEW YORK TIMES TO SOURCES SUCH AS THE JANE'S COMPILATION ON FIGHTING SHIPS, THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES' BOOK THE MILITARY BALANCE, AND THE SIPRI YEARBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS ON

THIRD WORLD ARMS TRADE, WHICH CONTAIN VARIETY OF INFORMATION ON SOVIET SHIPMENTS TO INDIA. END FYI.

3. FOR EMBASSY LONDON. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO PLACE SOVIET ARMS DELIVERY STORY WITH CARROLL. IN VIEW OF DELAY AND OF NEW YORK TIMES INTEREST, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO PROVIDE MATERIAL NOW FOR NEW YORK TIMES INSTEAD OF CARROLL. ROGERS

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